

# *Resurrection* Parish

## CELEBRATE



### Listen: The Liturgy of the Word

“Pleeease, Mommy, just one more story!” Ah, the power of story, especially the favorites told and retold over and over again. And don’t dare skip one single word. Even if Lizzie can’t read quite yet, she knows. The story is in her bones!

Whenever we gather as Church for Mass or any other liturgical celebration, we tell our favorite stories from the Bible. In the Liturgy of the Word, the scriptures are proclaimed, those stories get into our bones and we discover anew who and whose we are, where we have come from and where we are going. The assembly gathers in love and then actively listens and responds to God’s Word with mind and heart and spirit fully engaged. Because God’s Word is alive and active, we encounter the presence of Christ in our midst. “[Christ] is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in Church.” *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* #7.

The Liturgy of the Word is about more than imparting a lot of factual data about God. While the information is important it is not the whole story. It is more about transformation than information. It is about deepening and strengthening our conversion and our relationship with God in Jesus Christ – the Word of God made flesh. In poetry and prophecy, in story and song, in letters and laws, the tradition and teaching of the Church is unfolded throughout the Liturgical Year. So central are the scriptures to the life of the Church that we can no longer consider them as what we have to do to get to the really important part, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Here is what two documents from Vatican Council II have to say. “The two parts that . . . make up the Mass, namely the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, are so closely connected with each other that they form but one single act of worship.” *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (#56) “The Church has always venerated the divine scriptures as it has venerated the Body of the Lord, in that it never ceases, above all in the liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the Body of Christ.” *The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* (# 21)

Were not our hearts  
burning within us on the  
road while he opened  
the scriptures to us.

*Luke 24:32*

*Jesus said,*  
My mother and  
my brothers and sisters  
are those who  
hear the word of God  
and keep it.

*Luke 8:21*

When the scriptures are read in  
Church, God himself  
is speaking to his people, and Christ,  
present in his own word,  
is proclaiming the gospel.

*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* #29

### For reflection and sharing . . .

- ❖ Recall a favorite family story.
- ❖ Think about what that story tells you about your family . . . the good news and even the not so good news.
- ❖ Recall the very best proclamation of God’s Word in the liturgy that you have experienced. What made it so good? What does it tell you about God, or your faith, or how you are to live as a Catholic Christian?

**Welcome. Engage. Celebrate. Serve. Connect.**